

Minutes of the Fourth General Meeting

Chinook Winds Regional Council

Theme – A Place at the Table

The United Church of Canada

May 5-8, 2022

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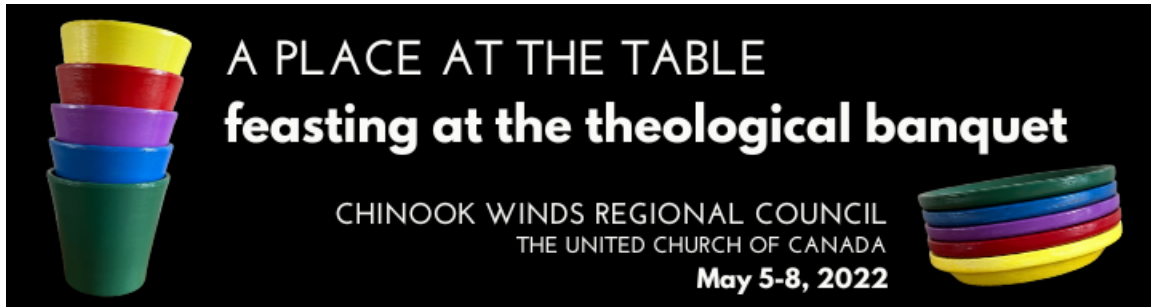
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The United Church of Canada

May 5-8, 2022



First Session: 5:45 p.m. Thursday, May 5, 2022

1. **Authority:** Vicki McPhee opened the meeting with the following words: “Pursuant to the authority granted to the Executive at the previous General Meeting of Chinook Winds Region of the United Church of Canada, I declare that the 4th General Meeting is now open to conduct business properly before it to the glory of God.” Vicki noted that a quorum is present.
2. **Welcome:** Vicki McPhee, Presiding Officer of the Chinook Winds Regional Council since November 2020, welcomed delegates to the meeting. She thanked the Naked Faith Band who will be calling the delegates to the meeting space with music. She welcomed those who were joining us online. She said that it has been three years since we have had an in-person meeting.
3. **Acknowledgement:** Leila Currie welcomed us all to Gaetz United Church where she serves as ministry personnel. She informed us about housekeeping details. She acknowledged that Chinook Winds Region is located on Treaty 4, Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 territories and Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3, which is the home of the Blackfoot Confederacy, including Siksika, Piikani and Kainai, the Tsuut’ina Nation and the Stoney Nakoda First Nation. Our region is also located on the traditional meeting grounds and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Dene and Nakoda Sioux peoples. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked

these lands for centuries and affirm our commitment to the principles and actions of reconciliation.

Dr. Wesley Lyle Keewatin Richards greeted us from the Okonkness First Nation of Saskatchewan. He is a member of Sunnybrook United Church in Red Deer. He led us in prayer and shared a traditional smudging ceremony with the delegates.

4. **Worship:** David Robertson led us in the Call to Worship which acknowledged that this is Red Dress Day. Following the prayer for the day, Susan Lukey asked us to pause to remember the lives of the missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people who should be wearing the red dresses that mark their loss. (**Ephesians 4:1-4**)

We heard the names of those people of our Region who have passed away in the past year and remembered them with gratitude.

Bill Phipps	May 5, 1942 – March 4, 2022
Ed Bardock	November 18, 1931 – October 11, 2021
Gary Goran	October 15, 2021
Greig Jonelle McLellan	January 8, 1954 – February 5, 2022
John Coe	April 12, 1944 – October 13, 2021
Robert Wright	April 18, 1932 – October 13, 2021
Stanley Bessy	February 5, 1926 – February 4, 2022
George Rodgers	1938 – September 18, 2021
Prescott Harold Burrel	April 18, 2022

5. **Business:** Vicki McPhee introduced Taylor Croissant who will lead us in the business of this meeting. Taylor thanked Sue Brodrick, David Pollard, Pam Young, and Kathy Yamashita who formed his Business Committee. He introduced Allan Buckingham who will be facilitating the meeting technology. Taylor reviewed the agenda and the voting process. He then presented Order Paper 1.

Order Paper 1: Constituting the Court and Organizing Business

M/S Taylor Croissant/Pam Young

Moved that:

1. The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council be held on May 5-8, 2022.
2. The Roll of the 4th General Meeting of Chinook Winds Regional Council shall consist of those members of Chinook Winds Regional Council who register prior to 5:00 p.m., Thursday May 5, 2022. Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll.
3. The Bar of the Council be established as the Upper Hall of Gaetz Memorial United Church, Red Deer, and the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered delegates.

4. Vicki McPhee, Presiding Officer, be affirmed as the meeting chair, Kathy Yamashita as recording secretary and that the Business Committee consists of the following: Taylor Croissant (chair), Susan Brodrick, David Pollard, Kathy Yamashita, and Pam Young.
5. Voting be conducted via *Simply Voting*, and Allan Buckingham be empowered to tabulate and report the results of votes to the Business Committee Chair.
6. The attending candidates for ministry not in appointment be granted full voting rights. Regional Council staff, General Council guests and invited presenters, be appointed as corresponding members of the court.
7. Subject to such changes as the Business Committee might make and announce, the agenda as presented shall be the working basis for the order of business.
8. The rules of order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised in business shall follow *The Manual, 2021: Appendix – 3. Meeting Procedures*, or for matters not covered, *Bourinot's Rules of Order*.
9. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.
10. Proposals directed to the Annual General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5, 2022. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in an order as determined by the Business committee. Proposals that are alike may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.
11. All unfinished business, shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.
12. The Regional Council Executive Minutes are received for information and included as part of the Record of Proceedings. (*The Manual, C.3.1.4*)
13. The reports distributed in the agenda booklet, the interim financial reports, and the report of the Nominations Committee be received for information.
14. The minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of The Chinook Winds Regional Council held May 7-9, 2021 over Zoom™, be received for adoption.
15. Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.
16. The Plenary portions of the agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on The Chinook Winds Regional Council website.
17. Following the adjournment of this meeting, Chinook Winds Regional Council confers the powers of the court, both regular and emergent, to the Executive Committee until the next annual general meeting of the Regional Council.

CARRIED

6. **Message from the Moderator:** Richard Bott addressed the Court in a video message conveying Christ's peace to us all at the end of his term of office. He thanked us for our faith and service to the church.
7. **Theme – The Theological Banquet:** Nancy Chegus from the Theme Committee introduced Janet Gear who led us in this exploration. Janet thanked David Holmes, Leila Currie, Nancy Chegus and Sam Grottenberg of the theme committee. Janet introduced us to the **Evangelical, Ecclesial, Missional, Ecumenical and Spiritual** personal theologies.
8. **Closing:** At 8:45 p.m. Vicki McPhee thanked all those who attended online and here in person at Gaetz United Church. She said that she hoped that technology would be improved tomorrow.

Second Session: May 6, 2022, Friday morning
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9. **Worship in Evangelical style:** Sam Grottenberg and Andria Irwin led us in an Evangelical worship based on a passage from Colossians. The children distributed cardboard "Flat Jesus" to the Court.
10. Vicki McPhee opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. She told the Court that the voting for Opening Motion #1 did not count the online votes and that there will be a repeat of the voting today. She invited Taylor Croissant to repeat the electronic voting for the **Opening Motion 1**. Allan Buckingham reported that the subsequent vote had carried.
11. **Theme:** Janet Gear continued the study of personal theology styles.
12. **Governance and Ministry:** Treena Duncan introduced Dan Hotchkiss as being a consultant to the Executive Committee regarding the governance of our new Region. He joined us online from Boston. He said that governance has a bad reputation. He has been working with the Chinook Winds Region Executive in the past year to set policies to guide the work of the Executive Officer and Region Staff. The policies should also set the accountability between the Staff and the Executive Committee of the Chinook Region.
13. The Pastoral Relations Minister, Stephen Harper led the Court in saying grace before lunch.

Third Session: May 6, 2022, Friday afternoon

14. **Worship in Ecclesial style:** We were led in worship by Kim Holmes-Younger and Nancy Chegus. (**Romans 5: 1-5**) Kim spoke about her hope for the church and for the world. Hope is a gift to the collective believers of Jesus' miracle. It brings a great responsibility to share hope with others. We took part in a litany to renew our baptism vows. The children sprinkled water on the delegates with evergreen branches.

15. **Guest from General Council:** Vicki McPhee introduced the General Council Executive Officer of Ministry and Employment, **Alan Hall**. He talked about pandemic fatigue and our individual and church losses. He said that we have much work to do as the world needs us right now. We need to remind the world that we must live out our Easter calling.

Alan said that **Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice** are words that express the intent of all the major work of the United Church in Canada and in the world. General Council staff are intentionally focussing on these words of mission in their work.

He talked about the **Office of Vocation:** This was created by the 43rd General Council to oversee support of communities of faith and their ministry personnel. In the next triennium there will be more focus on vocation skills by enabling continuing professional education. He thanked Brenda Fawkes for her diligent work in the past 4 years as the Regionally located Ministry and Vocation staff person. He also thanked Karen Medland who will be leaving the Office of Vocation where she was the staff located in the prairies region. Karen is going to be the Personnel Officer of Chinook Winds Region.

Mission and Service: Alan expressed his gratitude to the people of the church who donated so generously to the work of Mission and Service in the Ukraine.

Racial Disparity: As a shareholder in one company, the United Church has caused the passing of a proposal for racial equity in its hiring practices and will continue to work for this in the companies in which we are invested.

A question was asked about financial support for Ministry Personnel. Alan answered that the travel allowance will be increased from 41 up to 46 cents per km.

16. **Jan Richardson retirement** video presentation as she completes her ministry in Stettler.

17. **David Ferguson Music Fund:** Treena Duncan talked about the St. Matthews' Community of Faith in Calgary which closed and created the David Ferguson Music

Fund. We viewed a video about the people who will administer the fund. David Ferguson was the choir director at Western Canada High School in Calgary among many other accomplishments. The David Ferguson Music Fund is meant to support music education among youth and young adults in the Chinook Winds Region. You can email: dfmusicfund@gmail.com May 31 is the first deadline and October 15 is the second deadline for applications.

18. **Business:** Taylor Croissant said that the United Church has engaged in the identification of factors that support the communities of faith as they continue to move to an equitable life within our denomination. We continue to see marginalized ministry personnel experiencing difficulties in seeking and holding employment in the church. There is a research project survey being distributed to learn more.

At the First General Meeting of the Region, a team was formed to investigate the prospect of becoming an Affirming Region. He said that today we will hear the proposal from that team and will have an opportunity to ask for clarifying information. Tomorrow we will vote on the proposal.

Tracy Robertson has been the chair of the working group of: Ev Robertson, Darren Liepold, Pam Rocker, Bill Moore, Keith Murray, Lawrence Hrycan, and Dieulita Datus. Chris Mah Poy has been the staff support for the working group. Tracy said that this proposal refers to the status of the Chinook Winds Region and that individual communities of faith would need to work at this separately.

Proposal: Regional Affirming Vote

- 1) It is moved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council affirms the priority of continuing to become an Affirming Regional Council, endorses the Regional Affirming Statement, directs the Executive Council of Chinook Winds and Regional Executive Minister to complete the process of accreditation with Affirm United, and plans a public, intentional and explicit celebration at the 2023 General Meeting of Chinook Winds Regional Council. *Having set a threshold for the Affirm vote at seventy-five percent (75%).*
- 2) It is moved that, the Chinook Winds Regional Council disbands the Affirming Process Working group, having successfully undertaken a period of faithful discernment and learning, leading to the approval of the Regional Affirming Statement.
- 3) It is moved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council establishes a Regional Affirming Ministry Council to support the ongoing work of being an Affirming Regional Council.

19. **Chinook Winds Region staff:** Treena Duncan introduced the staff of our Region.

- **The First Third Ministry Team:** in partnership with Pacific Mountain Region works with children and young adults' programs. Chris Mah Poy, Pamela Evans and Mary Nichol
 - **Communications Officer:** Shelley Den Haan has invited stories from the life of communities of faith and clusters for publication in the online Newsletter.
 - **Archives:** Leanne Templeton is the archivist for Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regions. She recommended that Communities of Faith review their various minutes and documents which are no longer needed for current work for transition to the archives.
 - **Leadership Director** for Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions is Allison Rennie who talked about upcoming programs and opportunities for learning.
 - **Community of Faith and Strategy Consultant:** Joel Den Haan
 - **Assistant to the Executive Office:** Is Mauricio Araujo who works closely with Treena Duncan in both regions.
 - **Pastoral Relations Assistant** and office administrator is Jes Beckerley who is shared with Pacific Mountain Region.
 - **Coordinator for Hospital Ministry:** Geoffrey Simmons was pleased to announce that one hospital has indicated that pastoral hospital visitors will be welcome again.
 - **Office of Vocation Staff:** Brenda Fawkes and Vicki Nelson are General Council staff deployed to our Region.
 - **Urban Indigenous Ministry:** Tony Snow talked about the history of the Indigenous peoples from this area. He said that his work is to raise the profile of their stories to educate the Chinook Winds Region of their reality in striving for equity. This is our reconciliation journey.
 - **Director of Affirming Connections:** Pam Rocker is supported by Chinook Winds region and St. Andrew's Community ministry. 2SLGBTQ acceptance and equity has yet to be achieved. For example, harmful Conversion therapy continues in the Chinook Wind Region despite its criminalization in Canada. Pam Rocker was instrumental in creating PIE Day which is March 14 every year. She showed us a video called "Getting Started" which is about creating safe spaces in rural churches.
20. We viewed a video featuring **Ray Goodship** who is retiring this year from ministry in Cochrane. Vicki McPhee offered thanks for the life and work of Ray Goodship.
21. The court sang a blessing over our supper meal.

Fourth Session: May 6, 2022, Friday evening
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22. **Worship in Missional Style:** We gathered at 6:45 p.m. with worship. Joel Den Haan read the Parable of the Good Samaritan from the gospel of Luke. Hilary Van Spronsen gave

the sermon, answering the question of “who is my neighbour?” and then led us in a pastoral prayer. The children collected monetary donations for the Safe Harbour Society in Red Deer amounting to Four hundred and forty-six dollars (\$446).

23. **Theme: Grit and Grace.** Janet Gear revisited a hypothetical church conflict caused by a Missional board member and Ecclesial board member regarding a capital campaign. We heard from five panel members how their theology influences the work they do in the church. She talked about the shadow feelings that can happen if their church endeavours begin to fail. And we learned about how each of the theologies can be an antidote to the shadows for the others.
24. **Announcements:** Vicki McPhee said that the Commissioners for GC 44 are invited to meet with Treena Duncan over lunch tomorrow. There is a vacancy on the Ministry Personnel working group and if there is anyone interested in this position, they should talk to Tammy Allen.

Fifth Session: May 7, 2022, Saturday morning

25. **Worship in Ecumenical style:** We gathered at 8:45 a.m. with worship Led by Rachel Nadon based on **Ephesians**. Mary Shearer gave the message talking about her many experiences in the world. Her story has continued in Living into Right Relations. The delegates were given packets of flower seeds as a blessing to the bees and the world. We were invited to talk in our table groups.
26. **Office of Vocation:** Brenda Fawkes, is one of seven staff members deployed across Canada. She talked about some of the work of her office. She introduced Tony Snow, Kimberley Holmes-Younger and Rachel Nadon, giving some information about their pathway to ministry. While Kimberley will be ordained and Rachel will be commissioned tomorrow, Tony’s ordination will occur at a later date. Brenda said that under the Mountain Candidacy Board, there are 12 people in various stages of their pathway to ministry from Chinook Winds Region.
27. **Regional Executive Report:** Vicki McPhee asked Taylor Croissant to take the chair during this report. She introduced Kevin Dorma, Joanne Anquist and Kathy Yamashita as members of the Executive Committee who will assist Vicki in giving the Executive Report.

Kathy Yamashita talked about the construction of the Chinook Winds Region in 2018 by the GC 43 Commission until the Inaugural Gathering of the Chinook Winds Region in June 2019.

Vicki McPhee talked about the work of the Executive Committee in the subsequent years. She introduced the members of the Executive:

Vicki McPhee – Presiding Officer
Treena Duncan – Executive Minister
Frances Liu
Joanne Anquist
Ann Yates-Laberge
Kathy Yamashita
Kevin Dorma
Bill Moore
Trevor Potter
Gloria Snow
David Pollard

Kevin Dorma talked about the creation of a Policy Handbook which guides the ethical function of the Executive Committee. For example, there is a policy to avoid a conflict of interest and we expect that directors will do the homework to be prepared for meetings.

Joanne Anquist talked about the overarching Vision of the Region. She talked about three areas of attention for the Region:

- Enable congregational leaders to share expertise and assistance with one another.
- Lift up, celebrate, and utilize the unique gifts of rural and urban communities of faith in the shared works of being the church.
- Assist congregations in understanding the role of systemic privilege in intergroup relations.

28. **Stewardship:** Vicki Nelson is a General Council staff person who is deployed in three Regions including Chinook Winds Region for Stewardship. She said that she has already been involved in leading workshops with Communities of Faith in our Region in her first year with us. She talked about the United Church Foundation which gave away Twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) to projects across our denomination. Mission and

Service has received Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,00) for Ukraine support to this date.

29. **First Third Ministry Team:** Pamela Evans said that she has grown up in the church which was her safe place. Mary Nichol is the Regional Minister for the First Third Team who also found a home in a United Church for her family. Chris Mah Poy is a First Third Ministry animator who was lifted up at Ralph Connor Memorial Church in Canmore. The mission seeks to equip, connect and imagine with UC ministries in the Region to encourage youth and young adults in their leadership skills. Ilinca Poon is the first graduate of the Certificate in the Art of Ministry with Youth and Young Adults. Camping Ministry is part of their mandate which continues to be a blessing to the Region as is YYC Campus Ministry Coordinator, Tim Nethercott.

Sixth Session: May 7, 2022, Saturday Afternoon

30. **Worship in Spiritual Style:** We gathered at 1 p.m. with worship. David Robertson read from **John 6: 22-34** and Karen Medland gave the message. She talked about her visit to the Iona Community and its powerful spirit of community. We were presented with paper finger labyrinths to centre us in spiritual worship.
31. **Theme:** Janet Gear told the story of Pentecost and went on to acknowledge the differences between each of these theologies. Janet referred to Margaret Wheatley who said it is not the differences that divide us, but judgment about others. We then had small group discussion within the separate themes, both in person and online.
32. **Vote for the Proposal, Regional Affirming Vote**

Motion: Regional Affirming Vote

M/S Tracy Robertson/Darren Liepold

1. It is moved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council affirms the priority of continuing to become an Affirming Regional Council, endorses the Regional Affirming Statement, directs the Executive Council of Chinook Winds and Regional Executive Minister to complete the process of accreditation with Affirm United, and plans a public, intentional, and explicit celebration at the 2023 General Meeting of Chinook Winds Regional Council. *Having set a threshold for the Affirm vote at seventy-five percent (75%) of votes cast.*

2. It is moved that, the Chinook Winds Regional Council disbands the Affirming Process Working group, having successfully undertaken a period of faithful discernment and learning, leading to the approval of the Regional Affirming Statement.

3. It is moved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council establishes a Regional Affirming Ministry Council to support the ongoing work of being an Affirming Regional Council.

CARRIED

33. We viewed a video from **Pauline Bell** who is retiring this year. Vicki McPhee thanked God for Pauline's service all these years.

34. **Nominations** for Executive Committee: Bill Moore, Debra Springer, Gloria Snow, David Pollard and Frances Liu have completed their terms. The following nominees were presented to the court to be Directors of the Executive Committee.

Motion: Nominees to Executive Committee of Chinook Winds Region

M/S Tammy Allen/Sue Brodrick

Moved that the following persons be accepted as Directors of the Executive Committee of Chinook Winds Regional Council:

Shawna Gaetz, Symons Valley UC

Allan Buckingham, Rundle Memorial UC

Elaine Taylor-Kerr, St. Thomas UC

Ohwang Kwon, Consort UC

Marlene Lightning, Maskwacis UC

CARRIED

The new Executive Committee of the Chinook Winds Region will be formed by: Vicki McPhee, Anne Yates Laberge, Joanne Anquist, Kevin Dorma, Kathy Yamashita, Shawna Gaetz, Allan Buckingham, Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Ohwang Kwon and Marlene Lightning.

35. Taylor Croissant asked the court in table groups to discuss the **frequency of in person meetings** of the Chinook Winds Regional Council. The Executive received written comments from the table groups for consideration at its next meeting.

36. **Courtesies:** Vicki McPhee said that a gathering such as this Regional Council meeting is especially difficult during a pandemic.

- She extended our gratitude to the people of Gaetz Memorial United Church of Red Deer for their hospitality, from the church administration to the volunteer cooks.

- She thanked those on the Theme team: Nancy Chegus, Sam Grottenberg, David Holmes, Leila Currie and Janet Gear.
- She extended our appreciation to Susan Lukey and David Robertson for the illustrative periods of worship.
- She offered appreciation to the members of the Business team and to Kathy Yamashita for taking the minutes.
- She was thankful for those who created and ran the First Third Ministry program.
- The Agenda Book was ably created by the staff of Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions.
- A special thank you to Joanne Fairllie who was the chair of the local arrangements committee.

Treena Duncan expressed the gratitude of the court for the leadership of Vicki McPhee, who gave Treena a gift in appreciation for her expertise and confidence.

Vicki then adjourned the Fourth General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council.

37. **The final Theme Session:** Undivided Love. Janet Gear said that it is awkward and disarming to be together with people who are all self reflecting. She said that the burden of anxiety and fatigue in our world can be relieved by faith. We must safeguard the faith of the faithful.
38. The meeting closed with joyful worship, followed by a Banquet.
39. On May 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. we met in the sanctuary of Gaetz United Church for a well-attended Celebration of Ministry Service. We witnessed the ordination of Kimberley Holmes-Younger and the commissioning of Rachel Nadon. Carmen Lansdowne from First United Church, Vancouver, gave the sermon.



SIGNATURE PAGE

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL



Rev. Vicki McPhee, Presiding Officer

Treena Duncan, Executive Minister